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A new species of *Enteromius* from the Bale Mountain Region, southeastern Ethiopia (Teleostei: Cyprinidae)

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A new species, *Enteromius baleensis*, is described from the Weyb River basin, Juba River system, Bale Mountain Region in southeastern Ethiopia. It differs from all other *Enteromius* in having the last unbranched dorsal-fin ray soft and flexible, scales moderately small (34–37 in lateral series), and incomplete lateral line. Molecular data (cytochrome b) reveal its inclusion as a new species in the *E. pleurogramma* species complex, widely distributed in Ethiopia. Furthermore, six other distinct lineages deserving the species status are also defined by molecular analysis inferred from cytochrome b sequences. From these lineages, only three have been named: *E. akakianus* (Central Rift Valley), *E. pleurogramma* (Lake Tana) and *E. yardiensis* (Afar Depression). Based on molecular data, *Enteromius baleensis* is sister to *E. akakianus*. Based on morphological features, *E. baleensis* is remarkably different from the other representatives of the *E. pleurogramma* complex by combining soft and flexible last unbranched dorsal-fin ray and incomplete lateral line, and by a number of the skeletal reductions. The new species is the only member of the *E. pleurogramma* complex inhabiting the Indian Ocean catchment in Ethiopia. It should be considered for protection as a narrow-range endemic species based on its current restricted distribution in the Weyb River basin.

Introduction

Small-sized African smiliogastrin minnows of the genus *Enteromius* are a mega-diverse assemblage of freshwater fish species widely distributed throughout the Afrotropical region, currently containing around 250 species thought to be valid (Fricke et al., 2021), and many others still awaiting description. Several generic names have been proposed by different authors (review in Lévêque & Daget, 1984) but until recent years the majority of the African minnows have been treated under the collective name "*Barbus* sensu lato". The genus *Barbus* in its strict sense is restricted to the large small-scaled tetraploid Euro-Mediterranean and West Asian species (Berrebi et al., 1996). Recent molecular studies (Yang et al., 2015; Ren & Mayden, 2016) supported a formerly proposed hypothesis about the close relationships between small Asian (*Puntius* and allies) and African minnows (Golubtsov & Krysanov, 1993), which were united in the tribe Smiliogastrini (Yang et al., 2015). Yang et al. (2015) proposed a resurrection of the genus *Enteromius* being the oldest available

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